

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The present invention relates to securely accessing the control of home appliances through a network. Furthermore, a service provider maintains and updates security features of the network such as anti-virus and firewall software.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,453,687 Sharood et al. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Sharood teaches a home automation system. Sharood's system consists of various appliances and products that operate in a home being controlled over the Internet. Furthermore, a server receives instructions over the internet to control the various appliances.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

**a network security managing section for updating and maintaining a firewall between said network connecting section and said home server**

**a network connecting section for creating a signal pathway between said home server and said network external to said home network system**

Claim 1 relates to a **network security managing section** of a service provider. This network security managing section, updates and maintains a firewall between a network connecting section and a home server . This feature is found in the originally filed application as element 13 of figure 1, and furthermore on page 7 lines 22-25 and page 8 lines 1-6. Claim 1 also relates to a **network connecting section** that communicates with the network security managing section and creates a signal path for the home server to communicate to an external network (e.g. The Internet). This feature is found in the originally filed application as element 12 of figure 1, and furthermore on page 5 lines 5-10.

In column 4 lines 1-5, Sharood teaches an internet service provider and a home network for the control of appliances (*"can be connected to provide access to the control serve 100 and between the computer systems"*). Furthermore, Sharood teaches a firewall in column 19 lines 20-21 (*"control server 100 provides firewall protection"*). Sharood, however, does **not** teach a network security managing section of a service provider. Furthermore, Sharood does not teach a network connecting section that communicates with a network security managing section. Sharood does not teach these features because it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art that the home server is conventionally responsible for updating and maintaining network security and not a network security managing section. For example, see Melchione (2004/0006586), paragraph 49 *"customer 112 sends request 122 for application services to an application service provider."*

It is because Applicants' include the feature of *"a network security managing section for updating and maintaining a firewall between said network connecting section and said home server"* and *"a network connecting section for creating a signal pathway between said home server and said network external to said home network system"*, that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is that the service provider is responsible for the security of the home network and **not the user of the home server**. The service provider installs, maintains, and updates the security software on the home server. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2-15 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claim 2-15 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Independent Claim 16 has features similar to that of claim 1 and therefore is modified in a similar manner by defining the external network as the **Internet**. Thus, claim 16 is also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

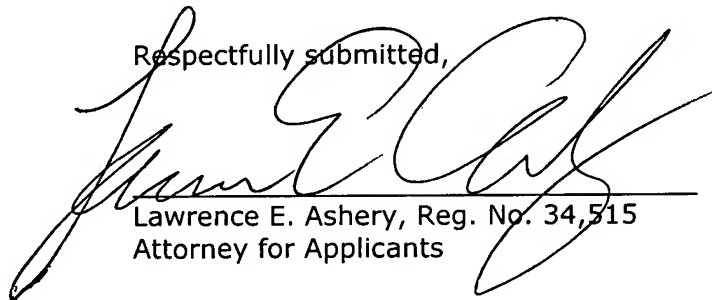
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Claims 17-30 include all the features of claim 16 from which they depend. Thus, claims 17-30 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in the condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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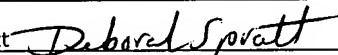
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